

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1. A communication system comprising:  
a communication network; and  
a plurality of electronic devices coupled to said communication  
network, each of said plurality of electronic devices including a selector  
for initiating a user initiated communication interface that provides  
10 network connectivity information necessary for establishing  
communication paths to other electronic devices coupled to said  
communication network.
- 15           2. The communication system as described in Claim 1, further  
comprising:  
a central communication interface for monitoring initiations of  
said communication interfaces by said plurality of electronic devices,  
and for establishing a communication path automatically between a first  
and second electronic device of said plurality of electronic devices when  
20 their associated first and second communication interfaces,  
respectively, have been initiated under a condition.
- 25           3. The communication system as described in Claim 2, wherein  
said condition is initiating said first and second communication  
interfaces within a period of time.
4. The communication system as described in Claim 2, wherein  
said condition is initiating said first and second communication  
interfaces within a geographical location.
- 30           5. The communication system as described in Claim 1, wherein  
one of said plurality of electronic devices is a mobile device.

6. The communication system as described in Claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of electronic devices is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

5        7. The communication system as described in Claim 1, wherein said selector is a button.

8. The communication system as described in Claim 1, wherein said selector is a software enabled selector located on a display of  
10 associated electronic devices.

9. The communication system as described in Claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of electronic devices comprise a graphical user interface for assisting users to establish said communication paths over said communication network.  
15

10. The communication system as described in Claim 1, wherein said communication network is a wide area network.

11. A method of connection comprising:  
providing a communication interface on an electronic device coupled to a communication network that when initiated by a user provides pertinent network connectivity information necessary for establishing communication paths with other devices coupled to said  
20 communication network.  
25

12. The method of connection as described in Claim 11, further comprising:

providing said communication interface universally on a plurality  
30 of electronic devices coupled to said communication network; and  
providing pertinent network connectivity information for electronic devices upon initiating their respective communication interfaces for establishing said communication paths with other devices coupled to said communication network.

13. The method of connection as described in Claim 12, further comprising:

5 automatically establishing a communication path between a first and second electronic device when their associated first and second communication interfaces, respectively, have been initiated under a condition.

14. The communication system as described in Claim 13,  
10 wherein said condition is initiating said first and second communication interfaces within a period of time.

15. The communication system as described in Claim 13,  
15 wherein said condition is initiating said first and second communication interfaces within a geographical location.

16. The method of connection as described in Claim 11, wherein  
said network connectivity information is a device identification (ID).

17. The method of connection as described in Claim 11,  
20 assisting said user of said electronic device through a graphical user interface to establish a communication path between said electronic device and a second electronic device chosen by said user, said second electronic device located on said communication network.

18. The method of connection as described in Claim 17, wherein  
25 c) further comprises:

providing a set of possible connections to other known devices  
located on said communication network for selection by said user.

19. A method of connection comprising:

30 a) at a first electronic device, acknowledging the initiation of a communication interface by a user, said first electronic device coupled to a communication network;

b) providing network connectivity information for said first electronic device, said network connectivity information necessary for establishing communication paths to other electronic devices coupled to said communication network.

20. The method of connection as described in Claim 19, wherein b) further comprises:

providing said network connectivity information on a display of said electronic device.

21. The method of connection as described in Claim 19, wherein b) further comprises:

providing a hard copy of said information.

22. The method of connection as described in Claim 19, wherein a) further comprises:

acknowledging the engagement of a physical selector located on said first electronic device to initiate said communication interface.

23. The method of connection as described in Claim 22, wherein said physical selector is a button.

24. The method of connection as described in Claim 19, wherein a) further comprises:

acknowledging the engagement of a software enabled selector located on a display of said electronic device to initiate said communication interface.

25. The method of connection as described in Claim 19, further comprising:

c) assisting said user of said first electronic device through a graphical user interface to establish a communication path between said first electronic device and a second electronic device chosen by said user, said second electronic device located on said communication network.

26. The method of connection as described in Claim 25, wherein  
c) further comprises:

providing a set of possible connections to other known devices  
located on said communication network for selection by said user.

5

27. The method of connection as described in Claim 25, wherein  
c) further comprises:

prompting said user of said electronic device for other network  
connectivity information from said second electronic device obtained by  
10 initiating a second communication interface at said second electronic  
device.

28. The method of connection as described in Claim 19, wherein  
said network connectivity information is an internet protocol (IP)  
15 address.

29. A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable memory coupled to said processor and  
20 containing program instructions that, when executed, implement a  
method of connection comprising:

providing a communication interface on an electronic device  
coupled to a communication network that when initiated by a user  
provides pertinent network connectivity information necessary for  
25 establishing communication paths with other devices coupled to said  
communication network.

30. The computer system as described in Claim 29, wherein said  
method further comprises:

30 providing said communication interface universally on a plurality  
of electronic devices coupled to said communication network; and

providing pertinent network connectivity information for  
electronic devices upon initiating their respective communication  
interfaces for establishing said communication paths with other devices  
35 coupled to said communication network.

31. The computer system as described in Claim 30, wherein said method further comprises:

5 automatically establishing a communication path between a first and second electronic device when their associated first and second communication interfaces, respectively, have been initiated under a condition.

32. The computer system as described in Claim 31, wherein said condition is initiating said first and second communication interfaces within a period of time.

33. The computer system as described in Claim 31, wherein said condition is initiating said first and second communication interfaces within a geographical location.

34. The computer system as described in Claim 29, wherein said network connectivity information is a device identification (ID).

35. The computer system as described in Claim 29, wherein said method further comprises:

20 assisting said user of said electronic device through a graphical user interface to establish a communication path between said electronic device and a second electronic device chosen by said user, said second electronic device located on said communication network.

36. The computer system as described in Claim 35, wherein c) of said method further comprises:

30 providing a set of possible connections to other known devices located on said communication network for selection by said user.